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Mr. Macpherson.—I am for continuing the duty. The people of the United States can well afford to pay the duty for so valuable an article, and they should be made to do so. It comes out of the pocket of the poor grubber. I am also in favour of a graduated scale, to rise with the size of the knees from 1s to 15s. The larger sizes would bear a very high duty, and be easily sought after.

Mr. Balfour denies it is the grubber who pays the duties. They come out of the poor grubber, and their effect is to prohibit the exportation of this wood and the free use of the produce of the soil for which the settler has already paid the Province. At least two-thirds of all the lumber exported is obtained from private lands. The duty vests a monopoly in the ship builder at the cost of the grubber. I am decidedly in favour of a repeal of the duties, but will consent to re-appoint them on leasehold property from the public lands.

Mr. Taylor.—The duty comes out of the American consumers, and their liberality makes the impost fair as it is politic.

Mr. Needham.—I am opposed to the repeal. It would transfer an entire monopoly to the hands of exporters at the expense of grubbers, ship builders, and the Province. It is our possession and use of this timber which gives the enviable character and value to our ships. The duty protects the poor grubber.

Mr. Macpherson.—There is any hardship in the case it falls chiefly on the grubbers of the inland counties, and yet they make no complaint.

Mr. English.—I opposed the original bill, and voted for the repeal last year. The general effect of it worked badly in Nova Scotia, which would lead to universal suffrage, to which he was opposed—spoke of the ballot as a principle to which he has no special objection, but quoted authorities to show its efficacy in the ballot leading to fraud, &c. Progress reported.

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